

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising, a nonionic block copolymer, wherein the block copolymer has the following formula:



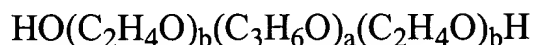
wherein "a" is a number such that the molecular weight of the hydrophobe $(\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O})_a$, represented by the polyoxypropylene portion of the copolymer, is between approximately 750 and 15,000 Daltons; and "b" is a number such that the hydrophile $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O})_b$ portion of the block copolymer, represented by the polyoxyethylene portion of the block copolymer, is approximately 1% to approximately 50% of the total weight of the block copolymer, and

one or more nucleic acid molecules selected from the group consisting of: genes, oligonucleotides, antisense oligonucleotides, triplex DNA compounds, ribozymes, or mixtures thereof;

wherein the composition further comprises an antimicrobial drug selected from the group consisting of; rifampin, isoniazid, ethambutol, gentamicin, tetracycline, erythromycin, pyrazinamide, streptomycin, clofazimine, rifabutin, fluoroquinolones, azithromycin, clarithromycin, dapsone, doxycycline, ciprofloxacin, ampicillin, amphotericin B, fluconazole, ketoconazole, pyrimethamine, sulfadiazine, clindamycin, paromycin, diclazaril, atovaquone, pentamidine, acyclovir, trifluorouridine, AZT, DDI, DDC, forscornat, viral protease inhibitors, ganciclovir, ribavirin, antiviral nucleoside analogs, or a combination thereof.

2-21 (Cancelled).

22. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering a molecule to an animal, comprising administering to the animal a composition comprising a nonionic block copolymer, wherein the block copolymer has the following formula:

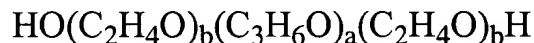


wherein "a" is a number such that the molecular weight of the hydrophobe $(\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O})_a$, represented by the polyoxypropylene portion of the copolymer, is between approximately 750 and 15,000 Daltons; and "b" is a number such that the hydrophile $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O})_b$ portion of the block copolymer, represented by the polyoxyethylene portion of the block copolymer, is approximately 1% to approximately 50% of the total weight of the block copolymer, and

one or more nucleic acid molecules selected from the group consisting of: genes, oligonucleotides, antisense oligonucleotides, triplex DNA compounds, ribozymes, or mixtures thereof;

wherein the one or more nucleic acid molecules are used for hybridization with one or more targeted RNA messages of a cell or virus.

23. (Previously Presented) A method of delivering a molecule to an animal, comprising administering to the animal a composition comprising a nonionic block copolymer, wherein the block copolymer has the following formula:



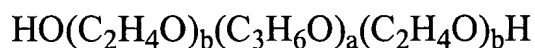
wherein "a" is a number such that the molecular weight of the hydrophobe $(\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O})_a$, represented by the polyoxypropylene portion of the copolymer, is between approximately 750 and 15,000 Daltons; and "b" is a number such that the hydrophile $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O})_b$ portion of the block copolymer, represented by the polyoxyethylene portion of the block copolymer, is approximately 1% to approximately 50% of the total weight of the block copolymer, and

one or more nucleic acid molecules selected from the group consisting of: genes, oligonucleotides, antisense oligonucleotides, triplex DNA compounds, ribozymes, or mixtures thereof;

wherein the one or more nucleic acid molecules are used for supplying a normal copy of a defective gene to an animal.

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Previously Presented) A method of delivering a molecule into a cell, comprising contacting the cell with a composition comprising a nonionic block copolymer, wherein the block copolymer has the following formula:



wherein "a" is a number such that the molecular weight of the hydrophobe $(\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O})_a$, represented by the polyoxypropylene portion of the copolymer, is between approximately 750 and 15,000 Daltons; and "b" is a number such that the hydrophile $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O})_b$ portion of the block copolymer, represented by the polyoxyethylene portion of the block copolymer, is approximately 1% to approximately 50% of the total weight of the block copolymer, and

one or more nucleic acid molecules selected from the group consisting of oligonucleotides, antisense oligonucleotides, triplex DNA compounds, ribozymes, or mixtures thereof.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the one or more nucleic acid molecules are used for altering gene activity.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the one or more nucleic acid molecules encode a gene or an antisense oligonucleotide.

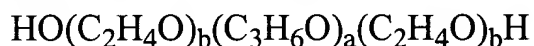
29. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein the one or more nucleic acid molecules are used for intracellular immunization.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein the one or more nucleic acid molecules are used for hybridization with one or more targeted RNA messages of a cell or virus.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein the one or more nucleic acid molecules are used for supplying a normal copy of a defective gene to an animal.

32-36. (Cancelled).

37. (Allowed) A method for immunizing an animal against a particular gene product comprising administering to an animal a composition comprising a nonionic block copolymer, wherein the block copolymer has the following formula:



wherein "a" is a number such that the molecular weight of the hydrophobe $(\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O})_a$, represented by the polyoxypropylene portion of the copolymer, is between approximately 750 and 15,000 Daltons; and "b" is a number such that the hydrophile $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O})_b$ portion of the block copolymer, represented by the polyoxyethylene portion of the block copolymer, is approximately 1% to approximately 50% of the total weight of the block copolymer;

an expression vector, wherein the expression vector contains a gene that codes for the gene product to be immunized against;

and wherein the composition further comprises approximately 0.1% to approximately 5% by weight of a surfactant.

38. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim ~~"37"~~ 37, further comprising approximately 0.5% to approximately 5% by volume of a low molecular weight alcohol.

39. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is an isolated nucleic acid molecule.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 37, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is an isolated nucleic acid molecule.

41-42. (Cancelled).